

REMARKS

The Office Action withdrew claims 14-22 from consideration. Applicants reserve the right to seek claims of the scope of claims 14-22 in a divisional application.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102 (b) as being anticipated by Goode et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,507,751). Claims 1-3, and 6-10 were rejected over Pagan (U.S. Pat. No. 6,024,730).

Goode et al. discloses a locally flexible dilator sheath. The flexible dilator sheath is used to separate encapsulating tissue from an implanted cardiac electrical lead. See e.g. column 1, lines 31-34. Goode et al. does not disclose a venous cannula. Thus, Goode et al. does not anticipate independent claims 1 or 8 as amended herein.

Pagan also fails to disclose all of the elements of claims 1 or 8. Pagan is directed to a catheter assembly and inner cannulae. The assembly of Pagan is inserted into the trachea of a patient. The assembly of Pagan is not a venous cannula as set forth in amended claims 1 and 8.

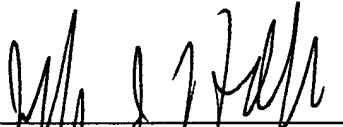
The dependent claims set forth additional details not found in Pagan or Goode et al. For example, claim 12 sets forth, "wherein the apertures are arranged into four rows generally extending along the longitudinal axis of the lumen." As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the 35 U.S.C. Section 102 (b) rejections should be withdrawn.

A request for a one (1) month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) has been filed with this amendment.

Please charge any additional required fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

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